Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MEXICO 09468 232001Z

10
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 DODE-00 /038 W
---------- 127342
R 231844Z JUL 76
FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6355
INFO ALL CONSULATES IN MEXICO VIA POUCH

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 9468

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, MX
SUBJECT: GOM/CTM MOVE TO REPRESS LABOR INSURGENCY

REFS: A) MEXICO'S A-211; B) MEXICO 9182; C) MEXICO 9257

1. AS RECENTLY AS TWO WEEKS AGO INSURGENT LEADERS WITHIN THE FIDEL VELAZQUEZ DOMINATED ORGANIZED LABOR MOVEMENT HAD GOOD REASON TO THINK THAT REAL INROADS BEING MADE INTO THE MOVEMENT'S LEADERSHIP:
A) IN MAY DISSIDENT LEADER HERNANDEZ JUAREZ OF THE TELEPHONE WORKER' UNION HAD ORGANIZED A WILDCAT STRIKE WHICH RESULTED IN A REFERENDUM OUSTING THE VELAZQUEZ CRONY AND INSTALLING HERNANDEZ AS THE NEW LEADER;
B) RAFAEL GALVAN'S "DEMOCRATIC TENDENCY" WITHIN THE PRI-AFFILIATED ELECTRICAL WORKER' UNION, SUTERM, HAD MOUNTED A STRONG CHALLENGE TO SUTERM'S VELAZQUEZ-BACKED LEADERSHIP. A THREATENED STRIKE FOR JULY 16 HAD CAPTURED NATIONAL ATTENTION AND WIDESPREAD SYMPATHY (PARTICULARLY FROM EXCELSIOR UNDER SCHERER GARCIA) AND THERE WERE INDICATIONS THAT SOME PARTS OF THE GOM WERE SYMPATHETIC TO GALVAN.

2. SINCE THE ELECTIONS, HOWEVER, THE LABOR INSURGENTS HAVE SUFFERED SERIOUS SETBACKS:
A) BOTH THE OUSTED TLELPHONE WORKERS' LEADER (WITH PRI NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE PUBLIC SUPPORT) AND A NEW VELAZQUEZ CRONY ARE CHALLENGING HERNANDEZ JUAREZ' CLAIM
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MEXICO 09468 232001Z

TO THE LEADERSHIP OF THE TELEPHONE WORKERS. THE PRESENT

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

SITUATION IS A CONFUSING ARRAY OF CHARGES, COUNTERCHARGES, RUMP ASSEMBLIES, AND PETITIONS BY THE THREE PRETENDERS TO THE LABOR MINISTRY FOR RECOGNITION AS THE SOLE LEADER OF THE UNION. THE ONLY SURE CONCLUSION WHICH CAN BE REACHED AT PRESENT IS THAT HERNANDEZ JUAREZ HAS NECESSARILY SHIFTED FROM AN OFFENSIVE TO A DEFENSIVE POSTURE AND HIS PROSPECTS FOR RETAINING HIS POSITION ARE PROBLEMATIC AT BEST.

B) GALVAN'S JULY 16 STRIKE WAS COMPLETELY THWARTED BY THE COMBINED RESOURCES OF THE FEDERAL ELECTRICITY COMMISSION, THE CONGRESS OF LABOR (I.E. PRI AFFILIATED LABOR UNIONS), AND THE MEXICAN ARMY (REF C). UNDER THE THREAT OF LOSING THEIR JOBS, SOME GALVANISTAS ARE SWITCHING THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THE ESTABLISHMENT SUTERM LEADERSHIP (JUST HOW MANY IS NOT CLEAR, THE TWO SIDES ARE MAKING CONFLICTING CLAIMS) AND THE GALVAN FACTION LOST ITS MAJOR SOURCE OF SYMPATHETIC PRESS TREATMENT AND PUBLICITY WITH THE OUSTER OF SCHERER GARCIA FROM EXCELSIOR.

3. IN REF A WE SPECULATED THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA AND OTHERS IN THE GOM AND PRI MIGHT SEEK TO TACITLY SUPPORT GALVAN AS A WAY OF UNDERMINING THE POWER OF FIDEL VELAZQUEZ WITHIN THE POLITICAL ELITE. PUBLIC COMPLAINTS BY SUTERM LEADERSHIP THAT "ELEMENTS WITHIN THE PRI" WERE SUPPORTING GALVAN AND A PUBLIC THREAT BY VELAZQUEZ OF A GENERAL STRIKE BY PRI AFFILIATED ORGANIZED LABOR ARE INDICATIONS THAT VELAZQUEZ WAS AWARE OF SUCH GOM THINKING AND DETERMINED TO OPPOSE IT. ACCORDING TO A FRIEND OF GALVAN, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA WAS WILLING TO SEEK A COMPROMISE FAVORABLE TO THE GALVANISTAS WHICH VELAZQUEZ REFUSED TO ENDORSE.

4. WHETHER OR NOT THE PRESIDENT SERIOUSLY CONSIDERED UTILIZING THE GALVAN CHALLENGE FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES IS NT CLEAR AND PROBABLY WILL NOT EVER BECOME ESTABLISHED. BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT FACED WITH AN EITHER-OR SITUATION, THE GOM HAS GIVEN FULL SUPPORT TOVVELAZQUEZ AND PRI ORGANIZED LABOR. THUS FAR THE CURRENT CRACKDOWN ON DISSIDENT LABOR HAS EXTENDED ONLY TO THE INSURGENCY WITHIN PRI UNIONS. THE INDEPENDENT (NON-PRI) UNIONS (EXCEPT FOR UNIONS IN SEVERAL UNIVERSITIES) ORGANIZED OVER THE LAST CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MEXICO 09468 232001Z

THREE YEARS HAVE STAYED OUT OF THE PRESENT CONFLICT AND HAVE NOT BEEN AFFECTED BY THE MOVES AGAINST THE TELEPHONE AND ELECTRICAL WORKERS.

5. ALTHOUGH THE INTENT OF VELAZQUEZ AND THE GOM TO ELIMINATE THE LABOR INSURGENCY IS NOW EVIDENT, IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN HOW SUCCESSFUL THEY WILL BE. GALVAN AND HIS SUPPORTERS ARE STILL TALKING A TOUGH OPPOSITION

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

GAME AND MAY BE WILLING TO FORCE THE GOM INTO PHYSICALLY REPRESSING THE DISSIDENTS. A TEST OF GALVAN'S RESOLVE WILL TAKE PLACE JULY 22, WHEN HE HAS SCHEDULED A DEMONSTRATION IN MEXICO CITY FOR WHICH A PERMIT HAS NOT BEEN ISSUED. DURING THE LAST YEAR GALVAN HAS ATTRACTED WIDESPREAD LEFTIST SUPPORT. WHETHER HE CAN DO SO AGAIN, NOW THAT THE GOM IS ACTING TO ELIMINATE HIS MOVEMENT, IS ONE OF THE KEYS TO HIS SURVIVAL.
JOVA

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTE SETTLEMENT, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR UNIONS, LABOR DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976MEXICO09468
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760285-0555
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760728/aaaaaynp.tel
Line Count: 124
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 MEXICO 9182, 76 MEXICO 9257
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by ellisoob>; APPROVED <01 NOV 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GOM/CTM MOVE TO REPRESS LABOR INSURGENCY
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, MX
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006